

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – August 9, 2005

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2005 at Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioners
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Kim Hoagland, At-Large
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Bob Langseth, Houghton County
(Absent: Clyde Raasio, Franklin and Quincy Townships)

National Park Service – Keweenaw National Historical Park

Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Al Hutchings, Associate Regional Director, NPS Midwest Regional Office
Tom Baker, Management Assistant
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services
Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation and Education
Brian Hoduski, Museum Curator
Charlie Masten, Facility Manager
Jo Urion, Historian
John Rosemurgy, Historical Architect
Dan Johnson, Quincy Unit Interpretive Specialist
Betsy Rossini, Administrative Officer

Recording Secretary

Melissa Davis

Guests

Michael Matts, Strategic Planning Consultant to Keweenaw NHP Adv. Comm.
Jane Nordberg, Daily Mining Gazette
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Julie Sprenger, Laurium Manor Inn
Amy Wisti, Congressman Stupak's Office
Tom Tikkanen, Main Street Calumet

The meeting was opened with the announcement by Chairman Paul Lehto that his term as the Commission chair would be expiring, and suggested that the board nominate a replacement.

Kathryn Eckert nominated Kim Hoagland. Bob Langseth seconded, and the motion was carried (6/0). Paul passed the gavel to Kim, and the meeting returned to the agenda with introductions.

The agenda was approved with the addition of a recommendation to discuss signing of checks during the Commissioner's Reports.

Minutes of the April 26, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Sue quoted 'discussion ensued on the procedure for disbursing the money,' and the Commission agreed to add the following language into the minutes:

"It was agreed that the Commission wishes to receive funds directly from the Park and disburse the money from their own account instead of a diversion of funds from the park to the requesting entity."

A motion to approve that change was carried (6/0).

Superintendent Frank Fiala reported that the budget has been passed and signed and will be effective on October 1, 2005. The Union Building, a complete exterior rehabilitation with interior changes, is in full swing; completion is planned near Thanksgiving '05. Construction documents for the interior rehabilitation of the Park Headquarters building are nearing completion. \$1.6M was appropriated in the '06 budget, which will start and be ongoing through '06, necessitating a staff move, vacating the building while construction occurs. The Quincy Mine Office is in continuing rehabilitation this year: work includes repair on the chimneys, masonry work, windows and a new slate roof. Emergency stabilization money was awarded for the homes on U.S. 41 in the Quincy Unit, which will probably be done this fall in preparation for winter. The fire suppression system for the Library is out for bid, and should be installed within the next year, along with another project addressing life-safety and accessibility issues, also occurring next summer. Cultural Landscape Report money was received for the Quincy Unit, which Steve DeLong will manage for the next two years, starting this fall. Regarding the Ripley Smelter, the EPA has proposed to do shore stabilization. They removed the asbestos that was in the outbuildings, and they have relocated the fence that will open up the trail for permanent use. The DNR is putting rock on the trail to keep the dust down. The EPA has concluded their work on it, which may allow this facility to be de-listed from Superfund within two years, opening the door to other funding sources: state, federal and other grants. He asserted that KNHPAC should consider becoming very involved in that process, partnering with all entities, state, local and federal to save the structure. Finally, Heritage Days in Calumet Aug 13, 2005 is in its third year and growing.

He then called upon park staff to present reports concerning their respective programs:

Tom Baker, Management Assistant reported that the Resource Stewardship Plan, put out for Peer Review with the NPS and KNHPAC, is on a holding pattern until the Director's Order for Resource Stewardship Plans is finalized. Work is proceeding on Cooperating Sites Standards with members of Cooperating Sites, and will be presenting new standards at the fall meeting for that body's approval. The Fall Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 8 at 10:00 a.m. to be hosted by the Calumet Theatre. Park staff has been working on Cooperating Site criteria, which KNHPAC initiated, and will hopefully be finished within a month, to return to the Commission for review and adjustment.

Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation & Education, passed out samples of work from the Division of Interpretation and Education. Two seasonal staff were hired for the NPS Information Desk at the Quincy Mine Hoist until August 27. They started doing Ranger-led programs on June 18 with Village of Calumet Walking Tours, and are also giving Porch Talks at Quincy three days

per week throughout the summer. Dan developed a draft cooperating site brochure template using the Quincy Mine Hoist Association as the test site. The template will be modified and improved upon this winter. Laurium Manor Inn redid their brochure using the template. Old Victoria is next on the list, the intention being to give some uniformity while maintaining the individuality of each site. The two seasonals at Quincy worked on a self-guided children's activity. They did a prototype and field-tested it with the Great Explorations program at C-L-K Schools. They will improve it and make it more interpretive and have it available online and at the desk for kids to use. In July Dan instructed Fundamentals at Mather Training Center in Harpers Ferry, WV. Kathleen was in Washington D.C., involved in the National Junior Ranger Committee Work group to create a National Junior Ranger book to introduce kids to the Junior Ranger program. Simultaneously working on standards with the National Junior Ranger Program, and securing money for Keweenaw to get their own Junior Ranger program in 2006 if it all comes about. The newspaper, *The Ingot*, has been distributed widely throughout the Upper Peninsula, Mackinac City tourist information centers. A self-guiding booklet for the "Industrial Calumet" trail guide is going to press this week (Kathleen provided a hard copy for the Commission to review). The centerfold map is now being handed out at the front desk. Website development includes photos of the Commission members. Other website updates include breaking down the Quincy and Calumet experiences, highlighting interpretive experiences there, also a page of interpretive programs offered. There is also a lot of good visitor feedback regarding the website from people who are traveling all over and specifically commented that it helped orient them to their trip here. Also included for the Commission's review were three documents (in draft mode, they still need to go through peer, staff, and outside review): the Volunteer Management Plan, the Isle Royale Natural History Association Scope of Sales, and the Park Education Plan. The Volunteer Management Plan is for the entire park, all divisions. The IRNHA Scope of Sales document outlines the agreement, what they currently sell, how those relate to park themes, and where the sale pricing lays out. Kathleen gave the Association a tour of the Cooperating Sites. They will try to visit all the sites over the next two to three years. They also put a sales outlet in the reception area of Park Headquarters, as well as the Quincy Gift Shop, and have opened a new one at the Houghton County Historical Museum. The Park Education Plan is the draft of a 5-year education plan for 2005 – 2010. It came from a Parks-As-Classrooms grant in 2004 at a teacher's workshop with 20 local teachers. Park cleanup has recruited students as park volunteers from CLK Great Explorations program, keeping the industrial area cleaned on a monthly basis.

Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives, and Historical Services: the division has been giving Interpretive Building Tours of the Library at 10 & 2 every day, with 31 tours given to date. Jo Urion is working on a team with Ed Yarbrough, Tim O'Neil from Central MI University, and Erik Nordberg who developed an interactive web project on Interior Ellis Island focusing on ethnicity in the Copper Country, including narrative on the different ethnic groups and historic photos. The Oral History program is progressing, Jo continues to do interviews. Library tours have brought names of potential interviewees. There are three more Fourth Thursday in History programs before the break in Nov & Dec. Talks include: The Pasty: History in the Baking(8/25); Jewish History in the Upper Peninsula(9/22); Cemeteries in the Copper County (10-27). The July program with Larry Lankton on industrial decline & heritage rebirth was the last collaboration with MTU Archives. The division has given technical assistance to the Trustees of the Elks Lodge 404 to talk about the facility and collections, as they are interested in potentially donating their archival collection. The trustees will receive a tour of the Library on

8/10. Calumet Theater just discovered a cache of historic playbills and other archival records. Brian assisted Kris Antcliff in coming up with 5 series to organize the collection. Plans are in the works to do a presentation on copyright to the Houghton Keweenaw County Genealogical Society. Requests are being tracked for technical assistance from the private sector and staff has responded to 21 individual requests in the past few months. Several inquiries have been received through the web site. Volunteer Bonnie Bakewell has worked for 8 weeks (VIP for 240 hours, 30 hours a week) and is on her last week. New accessions include a donation from Calumet Township of C& H records that were originally from the Library (super 8, 8 mm or 16 mm film, looking for a projector; early 20th century documents, transparencies). They are inventoried and the paperwork will be drawn up this week. b) Park staff worked at the Community Church (formerly the First Presbyterian Church in Calumet) who donated their records to the park. 23 boxes include early records from the Calumet Congregational Church. The two churches were federated in 1947 and merged in 1970. Effort has gone into making the collections accessible to the public. Progress is being made on the Quincy Pay Office collection and staff is preparing to move it into collection storage area. Archival collections in storage area were reorganized and labeled in preparation for annual inventory, which is due this month. With help from Stuart Baird (Works Experience Program) and Ken Kipina, window blocks were installed in the storage area to prevent light entry and stabilize the environment. The Foster collection finding aid is almost complete, and the glass plate negatives are almost all scanned. The Scope Of Collections Statement is being revised, and a history of the park collection to date is being written to document all the decisions made in the past 6 years for successors. MAHS staff is investigating the possibility of combining museum collections from Apostle Islands, Isle Royale & Pictured Rocks with ours. The Advisory Commission was invited to tour the Library and the Warehouse.

Kathryn asked for more detail about the combined collections storage project, and Abby Sue told her that collections at Apostle Islands and Pictured Rocks are part of collateral duties for the staff interpreters or historians, so they are mostly static except for the natural history collections. If they were to be moved here, the warehouse might be renovated to house the collections. Frank added that this is an initiative for the NPS to consolidate historic inventory, which is costing more at individual parks. It would aid the park and the area, because it will draw researchers, and have the capacity for that research in the future. Abby Sue clarified that the warehouse would be rehabbed for artifactual items, and manuscripts, family papers, oral history and photographs would stay in the library. The Advisory Commission was again invited to tour the Library. Abby Sue also described the Automated National Catalog System, the online database which has photographs and documents that have been entered. Those collections that have not yet been entered are accessioned, and waiting to be entered.

Brian mentioned that the NPS is working on a better interface for its museum collections, and then it will be fairly easy to provide access to national catalog records across the park system. As soon as there is a completed finding aid, they will be posted in pdf format on the website.

Charlie Masten, Facility Manager, reported the YCC (Youth Conservation Corps) crew worked this summer removing brush around the Quincy ruins and buildings in Calumet. They worked with the Township, Village, DDA, Main Street, Central, Coppertown, and Quincy Mine Hoist. They also participated with the Great Explorations kids at CLK and MDOT Adopt-A-Highway. The staff completed a cultural landscape inventory for the Union Building, as well as all the

accessibility and design concerns and reviews. They are overseeing the project. In June, they hosted a Fourth Thursday in History talk on masonry stabilization. A crew of three masons and six laborers worked on the 1860s Dry House and buildings at Quincy and applied masonry caps to the walls to stabilize them. They did the Franklin School ruins, and they are moving to the Quincy Pay Office to re-point the stone chimneys, and a near reconstruction on the front porch. On rain days, they work at the warehouse, rehabbing windows. Charlie has spent time keeping up with the facility management software system, making a complete condition assessment of all the parks assets that are all in the national database. The Preservation Services staff is working with Quinn Evans on the interior rehab of the Headquarters, with review and staff meetings internally to develop the footprint of the future building. Steve has been working with M-DOT on park-wide signage, in the design stage. Steve contracted a brushing project on the Quincy ruins, removing 60 years worth of overgrowth and developed a preliminary Cultural Landscape Report outline. John has been working with the Calumet Village Historic District Commission and property owners, and providing technical assistance to the Main Street Calumet Design Committee, preservation tax incentive program, Agassiz Park, Tamarack City Stamp Mill, Seaman's Mineral Museum, Old Victoria Site Cleanup, River Valley State Bank, etc.

Bob identified the need for the distinction between the standards of preservation for park buildings and those of local residents, that it would be educational and interpretive. Kathleen addressed that, stating that they are nearly finished creating interpretive panels for the Union Building that explain the Department of Interior standards. Discussion ensued on the sheer volume of technical assistance the Park provides to residents of the community, and concerns were raised about how to educate the small contractors who advise homeowners. Julie Sprenger said she sent out invitations to 50 contractors to an educational workshop on working with historical tax credits and how to advise their clients. No contractors showed up, and this is the challenge the Park faces. Kim suggested the use of repeated Fourth Thursdays in History aimed at homeowners, such as, 'So You Want To Put In New Windows,' etc. Paul expressed the fact that he liked the excitement he hears in park staff's voices who are doing their jobs, that it's obviously not drudgery to them.

Frank said that regarding Agenda Item #4, there are action items that the Park is bringing forth to the commission to lock in dates to proceed, such as involving the Commission on the Cooperating Site Criteria Committee meeting. There is an ad hoc Cooperating Site Criteria Committee, and from the planning process came the idea to form a partnership committee that examines all external properties, not just cooperating sites. Tom said that there are a variety of partners that needed to be defined, and that the cooperating sites were a subset of that relationship. Bob, Clyde and Tom Nemacheck are on the committee and Tom put out a call for other volunteers for that committee. Kim said that defining the relationship between the entities needed to be articulated. Bob said that they would have a report by the next commission meeting. Tom suggested a date in mid-September after the fall meeting with cooperating sites, and would email everyone at the time. Michael said that there would need to be a chair, somebody on point. He offered to serve as coordinator. Frank's second point was that the Grant Program Committee needed to develop protocols and guidelines for future granting programs. The committee tabled it at this time. Frank also said the commission needs to document its hours on commission-related activities, so that if in-kind funding match requirements arise, it will be documented. The date to

count hours from is October 1, 2004 through the present. A sign-in sheet can be used at meetings, and a form will be sent to the Commission through email.

Commissioner's Reports

Michael Matts, Strategic Planning Consultant, mentioned that his title referred to past work on the Comprehensive Management and Strategic Plan, required in the GMP for the Commission. Since then, an Executive Director was hired, and some tasks were handed off. He clarified his role, adding that he provides assistance as the Commission decides. He coordinated the response to the Resource Stewardship Plan, gathering comments, and formulating a Commission document, which was sent to the Park. The Chairman and Treasurer are authorized to act on their own to execute checks for daily operational expenses, but large expenditures have to come before the Commission for approval. Al Hutchings, Frank, Tom and Michael met with the Commission to get a clearer understanding of the roles and functions of the language. One of the issues addressed was when Commissioners change, when Superintendents change, that there are procedures, policies, protocols and guidelines that can be used to maintain continuity. The outcomes were 1) Michael works on behalf of the Commission with Tom and Frank to develop those protocols, working within the enabling legislation; 2) appropriation and the matching requirements.

Paul proposed a resolution about changing the legislation. Kim said that the legislation specifies that the Commission cannot receive funds from the Park until the Commission has raised the money, which the park then matches. The challenge of raising the money without the staff, and not having staff to raise the money has paralyzed the Commission. They would like to secure an appropriation to enable the Commission to hire someone to raise money for programs.

Kathryn moved that the Commission work with the delegation to increase the dollar amount from \$100,000 per year to \$250,000, to eliminate the need for a match, and to arrange for the funds to come directly to the Commission. Paul seconded, clarifying that this would be in addition to the Park's appropriation, not coming out of the money appropriated to the park. The resolution was passed unanimously (6/0).

Kathryn talked about a simultaneous two-pronged approach in that Frank would talk to the solicitor for clarification of the language on that part of the enabling legislation. Frank said that he would work with the Commission on that language.

Kim reported that the Americana Foundation awarded \$10,000 to Michigan Tech for the preparation of the National Register nomination for Mason, MI. The Foundation has funded projects related to Keweenaw NHP for between \$400,000 and \$500,000, including grants to St. Anne's Church, Calumet Theater, Laurium National Register nomination, Lake Linden Village Hall Restoration, First Congregational Church, Land Use Planning for Keweenaw County, Old Victoria, and several others. Those kinds of grants should be able to be used to leverage matching funds. Bob raised the point that it has probably leveraged millions of dollars.

Bob expressed gratitude to Al Hutchings for his continued work, and to the Houghton County Board, for taking care of Paradise Corners, and the use of the prisoners in the basement of St. Anne's Church. He suggested that St. Anne's partner with the ethnic website being prepared, and Abby Sue steered him to Erik Nordberg.

Kathryn expressed her gratitude to Paul Lehto for his leadership over twelve years as Chair of this Commission, and his commitment to historic preservation.

Sue went over the bills: outstanding bill from Gray & Pape for \$2,250, which is for Michael's services. There was some discussion concerning the Commission's obligation to Gray & Pape. Right now Michael's working on a reimbursement basis, based on what the Commission asks him to do. They can come up with a scope and budget for the future, then they can approve it. That can be the process for the next phase.

Sue moved that they pay the invoice. Paul seconded, and the motion was carried (6/0).

The motion was made that the bills be paid as presented. Sue will investigate the status of the memberships. Kathryn moved that the Commission pay the memberships, examining the overlap with the Park. Paul seconded. The motion was carried (6/0).

Sue brought up the protocol for signing checks that need signatures right away. She suggested Kim be the signatory as Chairperson, and that Paul be kept on the signature card as Vice-Chair. Kim pointed out that there would only be a day's delay in the mail; it was agreed that would be fine. Sue said she just got notification from the IRS stating that there was no Unemployment Return sent in for 2003, and another bill might be forthcoming.

Reports/Comments from Legislative Staff

Amy Wisti attended but had no comments at this time. Paul told her to thank Mr. Stupak for attending the ribbon cutting at the Armory, and the Independence Parade for PastyFest.

Comments/Questions from the public

Julie Sprenger mentioned that the new rack card for the Laurium Manor Inn has arrived. The concept is in line with the template that Dan had developed, and she thanked Steve Delong and John Rosemurgy for their assistance with the new sign. Tours are slightly down this year. They are working on the self-guided tour brochure.

Ed Yarbrough thanked the Park staff from all three divisions for their technical assistance. There has also been a decline in attendance this year. He's very pleased with the Park Service Interpreters at Quincy, Gary Kaunonen and Danette Berger who are in their second year. Dan and Kathleen have done a great job of supervising and preparing them. Bart Stupak rented the Hoist facilities to host an open house for the Houghton County Democratic Committee.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on October 25, 2005 at the park headquarters in Calumet.

These unapproved minutes are respectfully submitted by

Melissa Davis
August 17, 2005